

## DAY OF THANKSGIVING.

In accordance with the request of several members of Synod, and the concurrence of the members of the Home Mission Committee, to have a day of thanksgiving to God observed by the Church, for his goodness in regard to the late favourable harvest, I hereby recommend the second Wednesday of November next, being the 12th day of the month, to be observed for this purpose.

GEORGE CHEYNE,  
Moderator of Synod.

## FOREIGN MISSION.

Our readers will be happy to learn that the Presbyterian Church of Canada at last possesses a missionary to the heathen, Mr. Stevenson having been, as the readers of the *Record* are already aware, released from his pastoral charge, in consequence of having accepted the call of this Church to go to India as one of our missionaries.

We are aware that a desire has existed in many minds that Mr. Stevenson should visit this Province, and make the acquaintance of our ministers and people before proceeding to India. It is certain that such a visit, if found practicable, would tend to strengthen the Canadian interest in our esteemed Missionary.—The Committee, however, in view of the fact that missionaries are advised to take passage for India in the month of September, so as to arrive after the rainy season has closed, did not feel it right to ask Mr. Stevenson to visit Canada, at the cost of reaching India at an unfavourable season, or perhaps losing a year altogether. Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson have accordingly taken passage from London to Calcutta, going round the Cape of Good Hope, and are now on the great deep.

As has previously been intimated, it is not intended to decide on the exact locality of our Mission, till Mr. Stevenson can communicate to us the result of his personal observations and inquiries in India. It may be mentioned that our respected brother has suggested the great city of Lucknow, the capital of Oude, lately annexed to the British possessions. The ex-Queen of Oude is at present in England, urging a complaint against the East India Company. But, however her visit may result, there can be doubt that the deposition of the late infamous King, and the establishment of British rule will tend to the best interests of the country, and afford a sure protection to Christian Missionaries. A reliable account of the recent condition and peaceful annexation of Oude, may be found in the interesting article on Lord Dalhousie's administration in India, contained in *Blackwood's Magazine* for August. The city of Lucknow contains 500,000 souls, and the kingdom of Oude 3,000,000 of people who never hear the gospel. *There is as yet no Christian Mission there.*

Here we may correct an error of the printer in the Minutes of the Foreign Mission Committee published in the September No. of the *Record*. The fourth of the instructions sent to Mr. Stevenson should have read as follows:—

4th. "To confer with the Missionaries of the Free Church regarding the transfer of one of their devoted native preachers, to be associated with Mr. Stevenson as an auxiliary, and supported by the Church in Canada, and to correspond with the Committee on this matter at an early day."

Hereafter the letters of our Missionary to the Convener will be published in the *Record*, wholly or in part; and it is hoped that those of the brethren in the ministry, and of the people who are not personally acquainted with Mr. Stevenson, may acquire a knowledge of him, and sympathy with him, through the medium of his correspondence.

Meantime, we take the liberty to publish the following extract from a private letter of Mr. Stevenson, dated Aug. 28, to Mr. Redpath of Montreal.

"I have often looked back on the time I spent in Canada in the service of the Free Church, and on the period of my ministry in Montreal as a deputy to your Church, (and I would now say my Church also,) as one which was pregnant with great results. What I would now desire more especially to reflect on with deep interest, is the circumstance that the zeal to go forth on the Lord's work, to the foreign and heathen field, which I had felt when at College, and when I entered the ministry, but which my call to the congregation here, (Tullibody) and my happy work among the people here, had repressed for a time, again came over my soul with irresistible power, forcing me, on my return home, to offer myself to the Free Church to go to China as a missionary minister. The Presbytery detained me at that period. But now I have been let go, not to China, but to India; not from the Free Church here, but under the direction and at the call of what may be called a daughter of the Free Church, the Canadian Presbyterian Church. \* \* \* I feel that the Great Head, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the Lord and Saviour of both these Churches, and I desire to go to India as his servant, saying with Paul, 'whose I am and whom I serve.'"

"I would desire to see in the decision come to with regard to Mr. Laing, the hand of God, and to bow to it. I believe that Mr. Laing will endeavour to promote the Mission cause at home, and that we will be one in heart, although not permitted to labour together in the foreign field."

We close with the single expression of our hope that the Canadian Mission to India will receive from this era of establishment, a large share of the prayerful and liberal attention of the Church.

The following letter was received by the Convener previous to the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson:—

TULLIBODY, 4th Sept., 1856.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—

I have written to secure our passage in the *Alfred*, which sails from London for Calcutta, on the 24th September. Dr. Mackay, of Calcutta, recommended the vessel, and wrote to Captain Toller, one of the partners of Green & Co., which firm owns the Frigate, and in reply to his letter, a deduction of £10 was given on

account of the cause on which I go forth, making the price for the passage, £130, which sum Dr. Mackay considered to be very moderate.—No deduction has been given to Free Church Missionaries from Scotland, as a regular custom—occasionally a slight allowance has been made as in the present case. In the same vessel in which we sail, there is among the list of passengers a Missionary of the Church of England, Mr. Purton and his wife. There is also another minister as passenger, but I do not know to what denomination he belongs. Dr. Mackay is afraid the Free Church Mission will not be able to spare any of their young men for our Mission; but the Mission at Calcutta will readily, for a time, give the loan of a converted native, till another laborer has been sent from Canada. I will take the advice of Dr. Tweedie on this point, and acquaint him with your wishes.

I mentioned in my letter to Mr. Redpath that I had been strongly advised by Mr. Spiers, for a considerable time a British resident at Cawnpore, near Lucknow, to consider the claims of Lucknow. And since receiving his communication, Dr. Stevenson, who was for many years physician at the Court of Oude, writes me,—"I do not know in India a better field for Missionary effort than Lucknow.—Twenty-six years ago there was not in the then kingdom of Oude, a single English Missionary, or Chaplain, or School, Marriages were celebrated and even baptisms sometimes administered by the British Resident. A change, however, soon after took place in these respects. Our first attempt was a ragged school, in which the children were partly clothed and fed; but these temptations to attendance were withdrawn soon afterwards on finding that the children were willing to attend without such inducements. Our next attempt was to get a minister to superintend the schools, and to officiate as our pastor on the Sabbath. We wrote to the Rev. Dr. Charles, one of the Presbyterian ministers in Calcutta to secure one, but in this he failed.—We then applied to the Bishop, who forthwith sent us a missionary. In a short time afterwards, Lucknow became the residence of one of the regular chaplains of the East India Company, who officiated alternately in the city and in the cantonments, distant about three miles. In both these places there is an English Church." He adds,—"the climate of Lucknow from being some 700 miles up the Ganges, differs considerably from Calcutta. The latter is not, perhaps, so hot as the former, and the climate is much more moist; but though Lucknow may be hotter for a few months before the rains, it is much cooler after them. Indeed, from October till March the climate is very good about Lucknow, and in the mornings and evenings during that time you may dress as you do now." He further remarks that although the chaplains do some work with schools, there is no regular missionary yet stationed in Oude. I write these particulars that you may form your own ideas on this question. Oude is now attached to the Bengal Presidency. Dr. Mackay considers that the circumstance of no Mission being formed there, gives a strong claim on the Church of Christ.

Hindustani is the language spoken there, and as it is useful to know Hindustani wherever one may be located, I have got a dictionary, and will, when I reach London, procure a grammar, and during the voyage seek to do something to familiarize myself with the characters and words of the language. I send a receipt with this for the bill you sent. I hope and earnestly crave an interest in your prayers for myself and my partner, till the Lord may carry us in safety over the deep, and guide us and bless us.

I am, yours affectionately,

GEORGE STEVENSON.